

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSITION B

By Robert E. Shannon, City Attorney

Voter approval of Proposition B would amend Sections 103 and 203, and add new Sections 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 2400, 2401, 2402 and 2403 to the Long Beach City Charter. Voter approval would thereby establish three new commissions, modify the method of setting City Council salaries, and the method of establishing new Council districts. Further, voter approval would require that the City Council adopt a Code of Ethics.

Presently, the Long Beach City Charter provides that City Councilmembers shall receive a salary equal to twenty-five percent of the Mayor's salary, which is also set by the Charter. The proposed amendment would remove this requirement, and instead require that Councilmembers' salaries be determined by a new commission, to be known as the Independent Salary Commission. The Independent Salary Commission would consist of nine members, one from each Council district, and would be appointed by the Mayor, City Attorney, City Prosecutor and City Auditor. Beginning in 2008 and every other year thereafter, the Independent Salary Commission would set the salary of City Councilmembers, taking into account the nature of the duties of the office, and the salaries paid for other public offices having similar duties.

Presently, the Long Beach City Charter contains no provisions for either an Ethics Commission or a Code of Ethics. The proposed amendment would create an Ethics Commission which would make recommendations to the City Council relating to ethics issues, and would require that the City Council establish a Code of Ethics.

The Ethics Commission would consist of five members, and would be appointed by the Mayor, City Attorney, City Prosecutor and City Auditor.

Presently, the Long Beach City Charter provides that City Council districts be redrawn every five years by the City Council if the districts have become unequal in population. The proposed amendment would extend this time period from five years to ten years and would create a new commission, to be known as the Redistricting Commission. The Redistricting Commission would consist of nine members, one from each Council district, and would be appointed by the Mayor, City Attorney, City Prosecutor and City Auditor. The Redistricting Commission would thereafter, where appropriate, recommend new City Council boundaries to the City Council.